

## EDITORIAL

### REIMBURSE CENSUS ENUMERATORS.

One act of justice the Legislature of 1907 has opportunity to perform is that of reimbursing the census enumerators of 1905.

Many of the enumerators were financial losers through performance of this work, while others who, if they did not lose money, did not earn sufficient to pay for the time they gave to the work.

Conditions relative to the enumeration were not understood, but once started the work had to be done, or else forfeit bond.

In his report, Mr. B. E. McLin, Commissioner of Agriculture, speaks of this matter, and suggests that the State reimburse the enumerators who have suffered loss, and states a sum that would be sufficient indemnity.

As the Commissioner says, Florida is able to pay for her work, and it should be the purpose of the Legislature to see that it is done.

### DOVE ALLISON BREAKS INTO THE LEGISLATURE.

For more than a year past, those who were unfortunate enough to be findable in directories or other places where names and addresses are printed, have been receiving about once in so often, letters signed by H. Dove Allison.

This Dove person has none of the attributes of the mild and gentle creature from whom he borrows his middle name.

It will not do to say harsh things about this unfortunate man.

He is affected with a blight so terrible that death would be a mercy in comparison with it.

He is of unsound mind.

For a short time he was confined in the State's Insane Asylum. When he recovered his mental balance sufficiently to be considered harmless, he was discharged.

His impaired mental faculties are the cause of his being possessed with the delusions that he was harshly treated while he was an inmate of the asylum.

His letters tell about his sufferings, which are no doubt real to him on account of his affliction, but which were not experienced by him.

There are scores of people in this State who know by personal inspection that no condition which Mr. Allison describes, ever existed or now exists at the Asylum, and there are none to be found who believe that the charges this man makes are true.

He writes letters because he has to write them. His diseased mind impels him, and he must obey.

Of the hundreds of persons who have received these letters, there is not one who believes them anything else than the emanations from an unsound mind.

So, no one paid any attention to them, except to pity their author.

Yet, one of these letters containing these insane charges found its way on the public records of this State.

It was spread on the Journal of the House of Representatives.

It was put there through gross carelessness on the part of the members of that body.

Here's how it was done:

In the session last Tuesday, Mr. Watson of Dade addressed the Speaker, saying that he had a communication which need not be read, but which he desired spread on the Journal.

The Speaker put the usual question—"Without objection it will be so ordered."

Nobody objected, and the communication, which was one of the Allison letters, appears on the Journal of Tuesday.

I say that this "communication" which contains a libel on the State that would be infamous if it were not insane, got on the public records through the gross carelessness of the members, because—

No communication should be spread on the Journal of either house without being read.

When the Speaker said "without objection it will be so ordered"—SOME ONE SHOULD HAVE OBJECTED.

Members have no right to allow the record to contain anything, that they do not know all about.

I know that it has been a custom to do things this way, but it is a bad custom, and is, therefore, one that should be broken beyond repair.

It was careless, nothing worse, but members of the State's highest governmental body should not be careless. They are charged with the responsibility of making the most important record in the State.

They should exercise constant care, and sleepless vigilance to keep it free from libelous and scandalous statements of all kinds—sane or insane.

The Dove Allison letter should be expunged from the record.

If it is allowed to stay there, the House record will show an inconsistency that will be ludicrous.

It will stand—

That the House adopted by a unanimous vote a resolution commending Frank Clark for his defense of the fair name of the State, in his speech condemning Barry for libeling it, and Hearst for publishing the libel.

And a few days after this formal and unanimous action in clearing the State from the stain of slander—the same House of Representatives permitted a slander as foul as Barry's to go on the public record.

Expunge the Dove Allison letter.

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